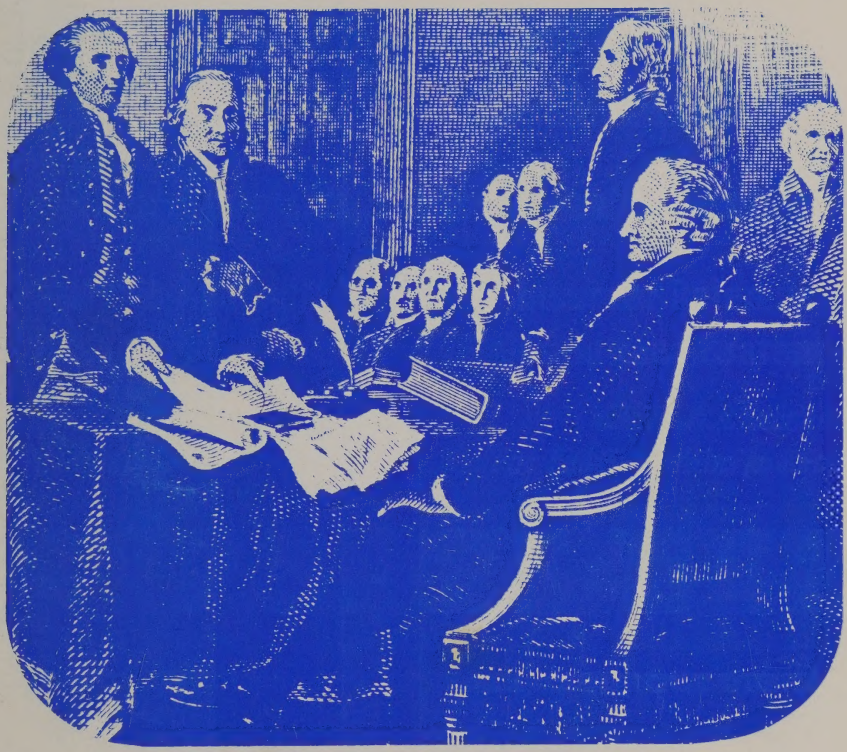
ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS



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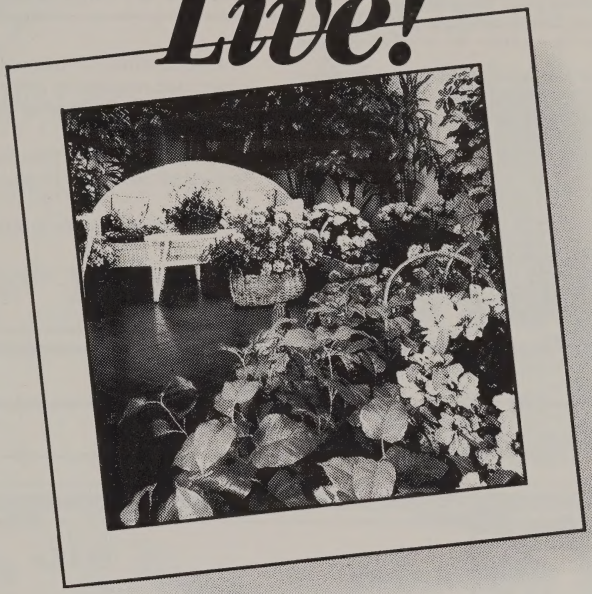

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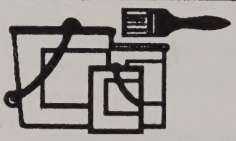

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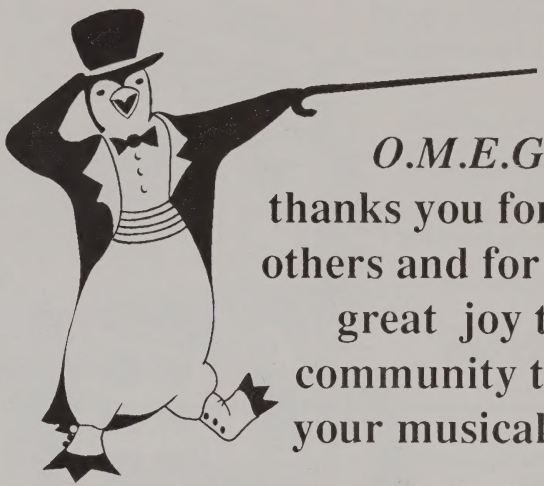

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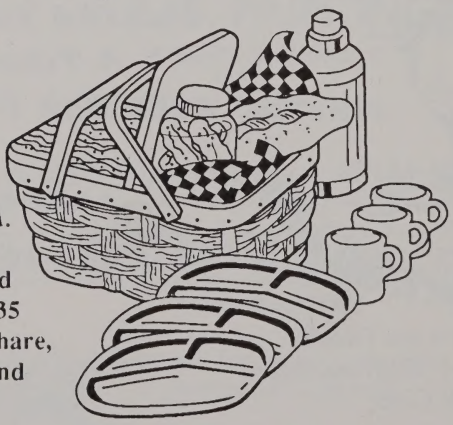

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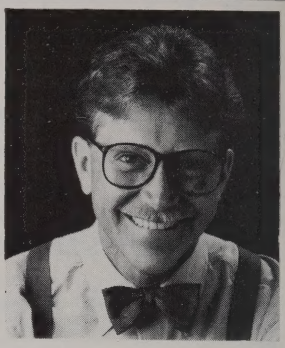

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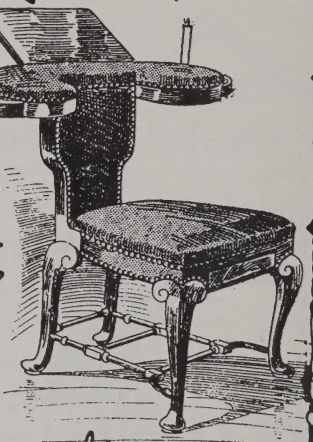

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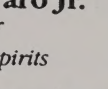

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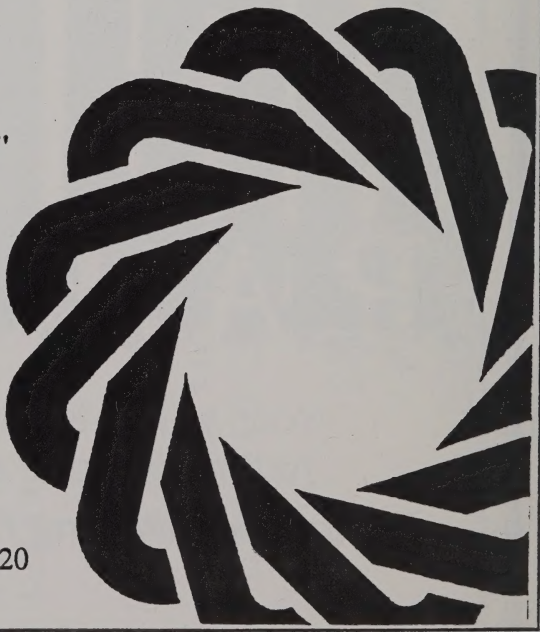

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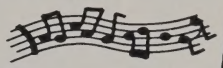

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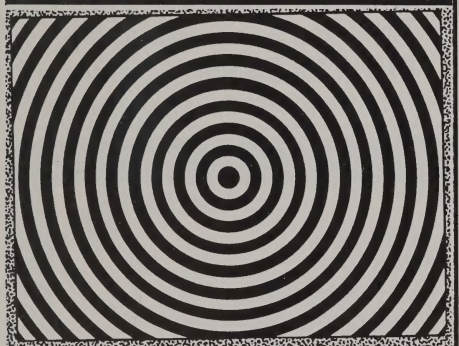

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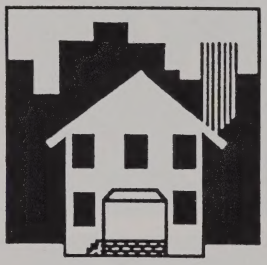

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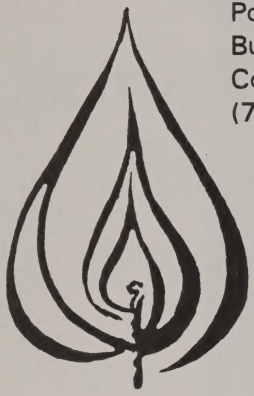

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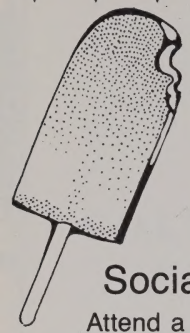

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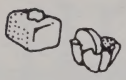

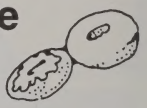

THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa
conductor

presents

LET FREEDOM SING

May 29 & 30, 1992
Xerox Square Auditorium
100 Clinton Avenue South
8:00 P.M.

Cradle Song is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. In Monroe County the decentralization program is administered by Arts for Greater Rochester.

Program

Oh, Freedom! *soloist Mark VanOrder*	Spiritual arr. Ted Ashizawa
Blowin' in the Wind	Bob Dylan arr. Robert Burke
Free, My Lord, Free At Las' *soloists George Kampo & Gary Keleher*	Robert De Cormier Donald McKayle
Psalm of Brotherhood	Paul Stuart
Hymne des Marseillais	Rouget de Lisle arr. Hector Berlioz
La Cage aux Folles Medley *soloists Robert See & Neil Houghton* *the Rochettes*	Jerry Herman Harvey Fierstein arr. Mark Williams

Intermission

Program

Diversity — Scott Henderson, Bob Daggett

World Premiere

Cradle Song — David Diamond, Adelaide Crapsey

What if the Founding Fathers? — Michael Brendan Smith

The Testament of Freedom — Randall Thompson, Thomas Jefferson

I. The God who gave us life
II. We have counted the cost
III. We fight not for glory
IV. I shall not die without a hope

Help RGMC manage printing expenses and be kind to the forest at the same time. Share your program booklet with Saturday evening's concert crowd by placing it in the blue recycling bins in the lobby after tonight's performance.

You are cordially invited to join the Chorus at a reception to be held on the Xerox Tower bridge after this evening's concert. Tickets for the reception are $5 and may be purchased in the lobby at Intermission or immediately following the performance. Join us for food, drink and conversation.

Program Notes

Maestro David Diamond's *Cradle Song* was commissioned by RGMC. For the text, Diamond chose a poem by Rochester native Adelaide Crapsey. The poem depicts a miraculous episode during the Holy Family's flight through the desert from King Herod. It is a mother's lullaby in which she sings that her son's sleep was made possible by the sacrifice of Christ. In that sense, it ties in with our theme because it celebrates freedom from fear.

> *Madonna, madonnina sat by a gray roadside, Saint Joseph her beside, and Our Lord at her breast. Oh they were fain to rest, Mary and Joseph and Jesus, all by the gray roadside. She said, Madonna Mary, "I am thirsty, Joseph, and weary, all in the desert wide." They bent a tall palm tree its branches low to her knee; "Behold," the palm tree said, "My fruit that is drink and bread." So were they satisfied, Mary and Joseph and Jesus, all by the gray roadside. From Herod they were fled over the desert wide, Mary and Joseph and Jesus, in Egypt to abide. The blessed Queen of Heaven Her own dear Son hath given for my Son's sake; his sleep is safe and sweet and deep. Lully lully so may you sleep always my baby, my dear Son. My dear Son, Amen.*

Let Freedom Sing also features *Psalm of Brotherhood* by Rochesterian Paul Stewart which RGMC premiered in the spring of 1991. The text by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenges the listener to set aside ignorance and prejudice, so that all peoples might enjoy "dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits." Dr. King's words speak as powerfully today to the struggle for gay rights as they did to civil rights struggles in the 1960's.

What If The Founding Fathers Were Gay? by Michael Brenden Smith was originally composed for The Spruce Street Singers. This piece tackles the notion of what the first Continental Congress would have been like if it had consisted entirely of "friends of Dorothy." Questions like "Were they fond of uniforms and hunks like Paul Revere?" are considered before a welcome change to the Constitution is proposed, equal rights for all lesbians and gay men.

These notes were prepared in large part from an article written by Principal Accompanist Mark Williams.

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

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Tom Douglas
David D. Emert
John Owen
Steven Price
David M. Skinner~
Robert E. Titus

Second Tenors
John S. McIntyre*~
George Kampo~
David C. Knoll~
Jonathan Millis
Nelson Neels
John Strand
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Baritones
David Dolan*
Neil Houghton
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Larry Mancine

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Gary C. Keleher*
Pat Moran
Carey Pembroke~
Mark J. VanOrder
Carl Crossgrove

~Rochette
*section leader

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John Williams
Mark Williams
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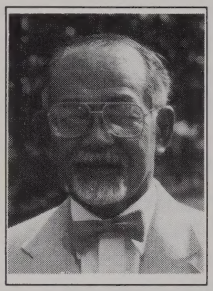
In Memoriam
Gary Bower
Paul Kelly
Jim Siciliano

RGMC meets Tuesday evenings from 7:00–9:30 P.M. at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street. Voice placements for new singing members and orientation for B#s and non–singing volunteers will be held at 7:00 P.M. September 8, 1992. For more information please call The Chorus Line at 423–0650.

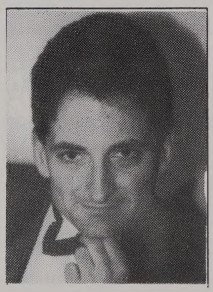
Biographies

Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa



Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa has recently been appointed Music Director of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. He is also the founder and conductor of the Genesee Chorale and Ars Nova Singers. A native of California, he earned Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in music from San Jose State. Further studies were undertaken in New York City at the Union Theological Seminary and the Juilliard School of Music, where he earned a Diploma in Choral Conducting and received the prestigious Frank Damrosch Prize in Choral Conducting. He joined the faculty at Genesee community College in 1971, and soon after that received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington. In 1976 Dr. Ashizawa was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching by the State University of New York.

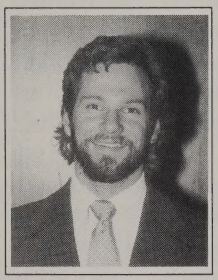
Mark Williams



Mark Williams, a native of Rochester, earned his Bachelor of Arts in music from Colgate University and his Master of Philosophy in musicology from Yale University. Currently he is a Cataloging and Serial Assistant in the Sibley Music Library of The Eastman School of Music. Mark was principal accompanist of the Chorus from fall 1986 to fall 1989, resuming the position in spring 1992 and he has written freelance music criticism for Gannett Rochester's *Times-Union* since 1990. Active in composition and arranging, his "Three Songs from Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*" were performed by the RGMC at GALA Festival III in Seattle in 1989.

Biographies

Brian W. Ambrose



Artistic Interpreter Brian W. Ambrose moved to Rochester in 1990. A native of Rutland, Vermont, he holds certification from the state of Texas. He is currently directing a sign choir and interpreting for a suburban church as well as interpreting the safer–sex workshops for the Community Health Network. Brian has most recently interpreted for *Winnie the Pooh, She Stoops to Conquer, The Adventures of Paddington Bear,* and *The Dining Room* for Nazareth College Arts Center. This fall he coordinated the interpreting service for the Pink Flamingos and Purple Hearts Convention. Currently a senior at Nazareth, Brian will be receiving in December a Bachelor of Science degree in speech and language pathology. Brian is a full–time free–lance interpreter, and teaches sign classes at St. Rita's Catholic Church.

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A Gift for RGMC

As this program booklet goes to press the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is pleased to announce that $6,999 has been contributed toward our Second Annual Campaign goal of $8,000. The Annual Campaign constitutes almost one quarter of the budget revenues for RGMC. Won't you please take a moment and consider adding your name to the impressive list of donors on the next page? Through your generous, tax–exempt gift the Chorus can continue to bring our music to the Rochester community, upstate New York, and everyone we touch through our singing. We can continue to commission new works such as David Diamond's *Cradle Song* on tonight's program. We can continue to provide the slightly different prospective of *La Cage aux Folles*. We can continue to showcase the amazing dance skills of the Rochettes. In this program booklet you should find an envelope which details levels of suggested giving. Thank you!

Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is a member of GALA Choruses, an international alliance of over 90 men's, women's, and mixed choruses dedicated to providing leadership and inspiration to the lesbian and gay movement through excellence in the choral arts. GALA choruses produces a choral festival every three years, plans annual conferences for directors and managers, addresses problems of mutual concern, and assists with the sharing of music holdings.

Member choruses are in Calgary, Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver (2 choruses), Canada; London, England; Berlin, Germany; Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta (2), Austin, Baltimore, Boston (2), Buffalo, Champaign–Urbana, Charlotte, Chicago (2), Cincinnati, Columbus, Dallas (2), Dayton, Denver (2), Des Moines, Detroit (2), Harrisburg, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City (2), Lansing (2), Little Rock, Long Beach (2), Los Angeles (2), Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Milwaukee (2), Minneapolis/St. Paul (3), New Haven (2), New Orleans, New York City (2), Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia (3), Pittsburgh, Portland (2), Rochester (2), Sacramento (2), St. Louis (2), San Antonio, San Diego (2), San Francisco (4), San Jose, Santa Cruz Seattle (3), Tacoma, Tampa, Tucson, Washington, D.C., and West Hollywood, U.S.

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The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is the performing group of RGMC Inc., a not–for–profit corporation governed by its Board of Directors:

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Chorus Staff

Music Director	Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa
Producer	Bill Giancursio
Principal Accompanist	Mark Williams
Artistic Interpreter	Brian W. Ambrose
Office Manager	Erich P. Covey

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus Calendar

➢ **Wednesday July 1**

GALA Festival IV Performances, Boettcher Concert Hall and Temple Buell Theatre, Denver, Colorado.

➢ **Monday July 20, 8:00 P.M.**

Led Zeppelin Laser Show Benefit, Strasenburgh Planetarium, 657 East Avenue. Tickets are $10 and may be purchased by calling the Chorusline at 423-0650 from 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

➢ **Monday August 3, 6:00 P.M.**

Skippy Awards Banquet, 40 South Union Restaurant, 40 South Union Street. Tickets are $25 and may be purchased by calling the Chorusline at 423-0650 from 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

➢ **Tuesday September 8, 7:00 P.M.**

Voice placement auditions and B# orientation, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street.

➢ **Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 P.M.**

First rehearsal for the 10th Anniversary Season of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street.

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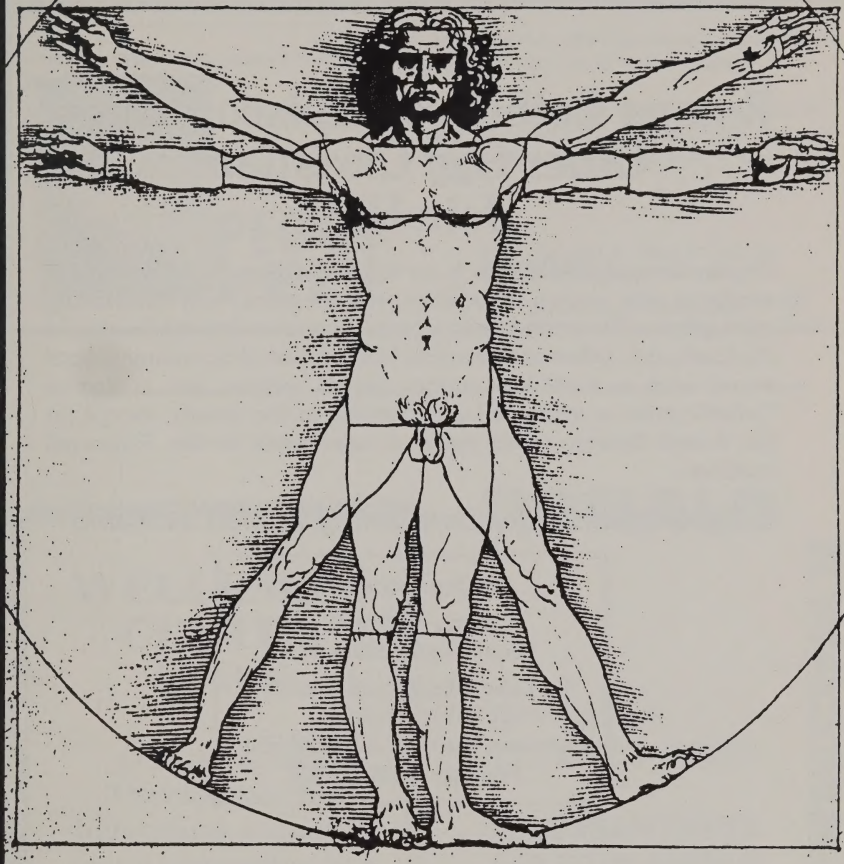

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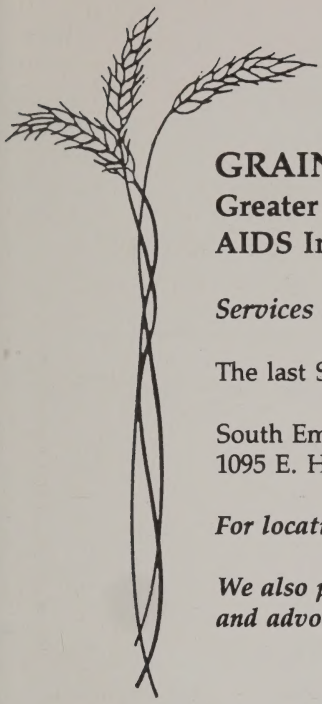

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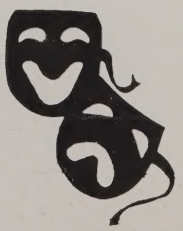

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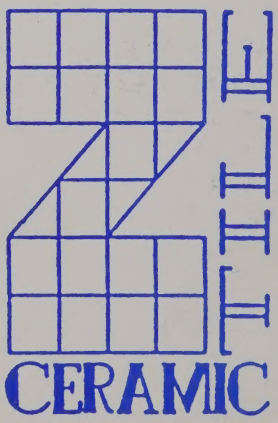
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